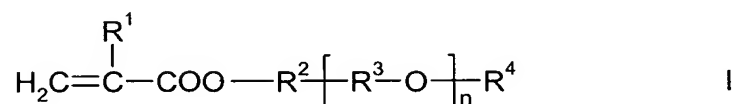


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended): ~~The use of~~ A method of using copolymers comprising alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,

- (a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,
- (b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid
- and
- (c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



in which the variables have the following meanings:

- R¹ is hydrogen or methyl;
- R² is a chemical bond or unbranched or branched C₁-C₆-alkylene;
- R³ is identical or different unbranched or branched C₂-C₄-alkylene radicals;
- R⁴ is unbranched or branched C₁-C₆-alkyl;

n is 3 to 50,

as deposit-inhibiting additives in the rinse aids for dishwashers.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymers comprise 65 to 85 mol% of component (a), 10 to 25 mol% of component (b) and 5 to 15 mol% of component (c) in copolymerized form.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the copolymers comprise 65 to 75 mol% of component (a), 15 to 25 mol% of component (b) and 5 to 10 mol% of component (c) in copolymerized form.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~method according to claims 1-~~to 3~~, wherein the copolymers comprise, as component (c), a nonionic monomer of the formula I, in which R^1 is methyl, R^2 is a chemical bond, R^3 is C_2 - C_3 -alkylene, R^4 is C_1 - C_2 -alkyl and n is 5 to 40, in copolymerized form.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~method according to claims 1-~~to 4~~, wherein the copolymers comprise, as component (c), a nonionic monomer of the formula I, in which R^1 is methyl, R^2 is a chemical bond, R^3 is ethylene, R^4 is methyl and n is 10 to 30, in copolymerized form.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~method according to claims 1-~~to 5~~, wherein the copolymers comprise $-SO_3^- Na^+$ and/or $-SO_4^- Na^+$ as end groups.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A rinse aid for dishwashers which comprises copolymers according to claims 1 to 6 as a deposit-inhibiting additive.